

A Special Birthday by teej_318

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Summary:

It's Mike's 17th birthday and Will has surprises in store in order to make the birthday as special as possible.

A Special Birthday

Mike woke with a start when the alarm started playing on his phone. He groaned slightly to himself before he blindly reached over and grabbed his phone. He picked it up and disabled the alarm before he shoved the covers off his face. It took a few seconds for Mike's vision to come into focus as he woke up from his slumber. He rubbed his eyes and blinked several times before he looked at his phone again.

There were several text messages from his friends and family, all of them wishing Mike a happy birthday. Mike smiled to himself as he remembered he was now 17. Mike also noticed there was a missed call from Will. Mike and Will were now both 17; Will had turned 17 about two weeks earlier. Mike unlocked his phone and clicked on the voicemail icon, seeing that Will had left Mike a voicemail just after midnight.

"Hey Mike! Happy Birthday! I wanted to be the first one to wish you a happy birthday, but I figured you were already in bed. I'll see you in the morning! I'll pick you up at the usual time in the morning. See you soon!"

Mike smiled to himself when the voicemail finished. He and Will almost always were the first to wish each other a happy birthday. He had been hoping to chat with Will a little bit before he went to bed, but Mike was so tired from studying for his AP exams that he had fallen asleep a little after 11 the night before.

Mike clicked on the iMessage app on his phone and clicked on Will's name to bring up their texting conversation. There was a small wizard emoji next to Will's name on Mike's phone, a little nod to Will's DND character.

"Thanks for calling last night! I was gonna try and stay up til midnight, but studying for the exams seems to have caught up with me. See you in a

little while!

With that, Mike shoved the covers off the rest of himself and stood up to stretch. He then grabbed an outfit from his closet before he headed into the bathroom to shower and get ready for the day.

About twenty minutes later, Mike joined the rest of his family in the dining room. Nancy was off from classes today, which made Mike feel a little jealous that she got to spend his birthday relaxing at home, though Nancy had insisted she wasn't going to be relaxing, but working on one of her final projects for school.

Mike was greeted by a chorus of "Happy Birthday!" from his parents and sisters as he sat down at his usual spot at the dining table. Well, his mother and sisters were definitely enthusiastic; his father was speaking in his usual monotone voice.

"How'd you sleep, honey?" his mother asked as she piled breakfast onto Mike's plate.

"Oh it was fine," Mike said. "I passed out around 11 since I've stayed up late studying for my AP exams. Could use an extra half hour, to be honest."

Nancy chuckled at Mike's joke.

"Just hang in there, slugger," she said. "You just gotta get through the next month and through your exams and then you can spend all summer forgetting everything you memorized before you go into senior year!"

"Ha ha," Mike said sarcastically.

"We're very proud of you, Mike," Karen said as she sat down at her spot on the table. "You've worked very hard this year. It'll all pay off when you're ahead on college credits."

"Rest in peace to my sleep schedule, though," Mike said with a grin, causing everyone except his father to laugh. Ted was too engrossed in reading the newspaper to notice much of anything else happening.

Suddenly they all startled at the sound of a car horn blaring outside. Mike quickly shuffled some mouthfuls of eggs into his mouth before he grabbed a napkin and shoved his bacon into it.

"Gotta go, Will's here," Mike said, standing up from the table and headed to the front door after grabbing his backpack from the couch.

"Have a good day, Mike!" Karen called after him.

"See you tonight!" Nancy echoed.

"Happy Birthday!" Holly shouted again.

"Bye everyone," Mike yelled back before he shoved through the front door and stepped outside. He hurried over to Will's car and got inside, tossing his backpack into the backseat before Will started to reverse out of the driveway.

"Happy Birthday!" Will shouted as he started down Mike's street to head for Hawkins High.

"Thanks Will," Mike said with a chuckle. "And thanks again for wishing me a happy birthday last night. I hope you didn't stay up too late after that."

"Eh, Mom may have had to force me out of bed this morning," Will said with a shrug and grin. "But it was worth it. I wanted to make sure I was the first to say happy birthday. You know, tradition and all."

"I appreciate that," Mike said. "So, do I get my gift now or later?"

"You're just gonna have to wait and see," Will said with a mischievous grin.

Mike wondered what Will could mean by that but decided to brush it off. Instead he launched into a chat about a new DND comic with Will, which took up the rest of their car ride to the school. They also shared the rest of the bacon Mike had grabbed on his way out of the dining room. When they reached the school, Will parked the car before they headed inside. They made their way to their lockers, which were on opposite sides of the junior locker section since the

lockers were organized by alphabet.

When Mike opened his locker, he was surprised to find an envelope come tumbling out into his hands. Mike picked up the envelope and tried to identify the handwriting on it, but had trouble since it was written in cursive. Mike glanced around to see if he could see anyone watching him, but everyone around him was busy talking or reaching into their own lockers to pay Mike any attention.

Mike opened the envelope. Inside was a birthday card that looked like it might have been handmade. Mike opened the card and started to read the message inside it. Like the envelope, the card was written in cursive.

Dear Mike,

Happy Birthday! Wishing you all the happiness in the world. You are a wonderful person and an even better friend. I'm so lucky to have you in my life and I wouldn't trade your friendship for anything.

There will be some more surprises for you later today. I can't wait to see your face react to all of them.

Happy Birthday!

The card was unsigned. Mike had a vague feeling that he knew who the letter was from, but he didn't have time to dwell on it, as the five minute bell rang, which meant that first period was about to start. Mike hurriedly grabbed his English book and shoved it into his backpack before heading off to English, his head buried in the card again while he tried to figure out who had left it for him.

Throughout the morning, the thought of the card and who had left it stayed in the back of Mike's mind. But he couldn't definitively decide who had left it for him. By lunchtime, he had resolved to simply wait for the card giver to reveal themselves to him.

Mike joined his friends at their usual lunch table.

"There he is!" Will exclaimed when Mike appeared.

"The birthday boy!" El said, grinning at Mike.

"Happy Birthday, man!" Dustin said.

"You're old as shit now, Wheeler," Max said with a smirk.

"Happy Birthday, Mike!" said Lucas.

"Thanks everyone!" Mike said, beaming around at all of his friends. "I'm just glad all my teachers have decided not to pile on homework for a change."

The rest of his friends howled with laughter. Mike joined them and they spent a few moments chattering amongst each other when a girl approached their table carrying a tray of cupcakes.

"Excuse me," the girl said politely when she reached the table. "Is one of you Mike Wheeler?"

"Uh, he is," Will said, pointing to Mike.

"These are for you," said the girl. "Happy Birthday!"

"Thank you!" Mike said, slightly taken aback. "Do you know who these are from?"

The girl shook her head.

"The request for them were sent anonymously," she said before she walked off.

"Who are they from?" Lucas asked when the girl had walked away.

"I have no idea," Mike said. "I figured it was one of you guys."

"Don't look at me," Dustin said with a shrug. "I'd have taken full credit by now if it were me."

"Not I said Max Mayfield," Max said with a grin and shrug.

"Wasn't me," said Lucas.

Mike turned to El and Will, who exchanged a look.

"We did make you goodies for your birthday party," El said. "But these aren't it."

"Will, was this you?" Mike asked, staring hard at his best friend, who was looking at Mike with a blank expression on his face.

Will shook his head.

"Guess you just have a good friend out there Mike," Will said.

Something about Will's tone took Mike by surprise. Was Will trying to avoid taking credit for surprising Mike? The tone made Mike think again of the birthday card, and Mike wondered again if it was Will who sent Mike the card. But why would Will want to stay anonymous?

Mike shrugged it off and reached for one of the cupcakes and bit into it. The cupcake was delicious. He grinned at his friends and nodded and they all started in on the cupcakes.

For the rest of the day, Mike kept thinking about Will's odd tone at lunch. It led Mike to conclude that Will was likely the one who left the card in his locker and was responsible for the cupcakes at lunch. Mike thought the card definitely sounded like Will; Will always told Mike how much their friendship meant to him. But that didn't explain why Will hadn't signed the card nor taken credit for the cupcakes at lunch.

At the end of the day, Mike left his locker and headed to the parking lot, glancing around for Will's car. Mike soon found it and got into the car. Will was already waiting for him in the car and seemed his usual self. Mike decided not to question Will just yet and instead just jumped into his seat and turned on the radio as Will pulled the car out of the lot.

When they reached Mike's house, Will surprised Mike by turning off the engine. Normally Will would just drop off Mike and head back to his own house.

"What's going on?" Mike asked, unsure of what was going on.

"I wanted to give you your present when it was just the two of us," Will said.

Will reached into the backseat and pulled out a square-shaped gift. He awkwardly pulled it into the front seat before he handed it over to Mike.

"Will..." Mike said. "What did you do?"

"Open it, Mikey!" Will exclaimed with a grin.

Mike couldn't help but chuckle at Will's enthusiasm. He tore into the wrapping paper and pulled out his gift. It was a hand drawn portrait of Mike from a picture Will had taken the previous summer when The Party had taken a trip up north toward the Great Lakes. Mike was staring off in the distance, looking like he was contemplating something great.

"Will, this is incredible," Mike said.

"You really like it?" Will asked earnestly.

"Of course I do," Mike said. "I'm just curious: why this picture?"

"It's my favorite picture of you," Will said, blushing slightly. "You look like you're planning on writing the greatest book ever written. It's a very you picture."

"I love it, Will," Mike said. "Thank you. I'm definitely gonna hang it up with the rest of your drawings you've given me."

"You want some help?" Will asked, not quite meeting Mike's eye. "I mean, you know, to make sure you hang it in the right spot."

Mike brushed off Will's sudden odd behavior.

"Yeah, sure," Mike said. "Come on inside with me."

Will nodded and got out of the car and followed Mike to the front door. He seemed nervous all of a sudden, but also a little excited, too. Mike wasn't sure what Will was up to and was too busy unlocking the door to think much about it. When he opened the door, Mike

motioned for Will to follow him inside. Mike tossed his backpack to the side and was about to turn to yell to his parents that Will was visiting for a moment when a loud noise greeted him.

All of his friends came jumping out from behind the furniture, along with his parents and sisters, Will's mom, Jonathan, Steve, Robin and even Chief Hopper, who were all shouting, "Surprise!" in loud voices. Mike nearly lost his balance because of how shocked he was by everyone's sudden appearance.

"We got you!" Max said triumphantly.

"What's all this?" Mike asked.

"Ask Will," Dustin said with a grin. "He's the one who planned all this. He was stalling you so we could all sneak into the house from the back before you guys came in."

Mike turned to Will, who grinned sheepishly at him.

"And I wanted to give you your gift," Will whispered so Mike could hear. "That part was true too."

Mike pulled Will into a quick hug before he turned to start greeting everyone else and the party began.

The party lasted late into the evening. It was a good thing it was a Friday night, which meant that the kids didn't have a curfew for the evening. By the time everyone left, except for Will, it was nearing midnight.

Mike and Will retreated to the basement after bidding Mike's family good night. They set up a little sleeping area for them to rest and changed into some sleep clothes; Will always kept at least one pair of sleep clothes and day clothes at Mike's house and vice versa.

Once they were dressed for bed, Mike and Will sat down on their makeshift bed.

"So, did you have a good birthday?" Will asked with a knowing grin.

"I did," Mike said. "And I'm thinking that you had a hand in a lot of

it."

Will nodded.

"I sure did," he said. "I left the card in your locker and I arranged to have the cupcakes delivered at lunch. I even made the cookies and other goodies at your party with El and Jonathan's help, though mostly Jonathan's because El and I are lost causes in the kitchen by ourselves."

Mike chuckled.

"Well, I really appreciate it, Will. Really, I do. You made this birthday so special for me. Thank you."

"It was the least I could do, Mike," Will said. "You're my best friend and I just wanted to show you how special you are and how loved you are."

Mike blushed a deep shade of red. He looked away from Will, feeling embarrassed. Will gently grabbed Mike's head and turned his face so that he could look him in the eyes. Will was smiling so big that Mike couldn't help but smile too.

"Mike?" Will said in a tone barely above a whisper.

"Yeah Will?" Mike breathed back.

"Happy Birthday," Will said before he leaned forward and locked lips with Mike.

Mike was slightly taken aback by the kiss but didn't question it at all. Instead, he deepened the kiss when he became aware of what was happening. It wasn't something he was expecting, but it was everything he ever wanted. And it was perfect because it was with Will.

When they finally broke apart from the kiss, both Mike and Will were out of breath. They giggled at each other, and smiled at one another, both of them blushing profusely.

"I love you, Mike," Will said.

"I love you, too, Will."

Author's Note:

Happy Birthday, Mike Wheeler!

I wrote this fic a few days ago and it's been killing me not being able to publish it since I wanted to publish it on Mike's birthday! I hope you all love this fic as much as I do!

Plenty more fics to come later this month! Stay tuned!